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VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 12 NO. 6

JULY 2009

READ ALL ABOUT IT
ON PAGE 3

Reading

READ ALL ABOUT IT
ON PAGE 3

PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA

READ ALL ABOUT IT
ON PAGE 3

100% PURE PRIDE

ESTABLISHED 1993
*Pride in the Park***READING PRIDE CELEBRATION
JULY 19****CENTRAL PA PRIDE FESTIVAL
JULY 24 - 26****GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY
PRIDE IN THE PARK - AUGUST 16**

FAMILY PICNIC



Sat., July 11, Lehigh Valley Rainbow Families annual summer picnic sponsored by the PA Diversity Network. Pavilion #3, Louise Moore Park, Lower Nazareth, PA., begins 12 noon. Grilled hot dogs and hamburgers provided. Please bring a side dish, appetizer, dessert or drink to share. Alcohol not permitted. Open to all GLBTA families and their children. Outdoor family friendly games encouraged. Multiple play grounds. Contact: Donnie and Earl Snyder - donnieearlucas@msn.com - of Rainbow Families to let them know how many will be coming.

RAINBOW PLAYERS THEATRE CO PLAY TO BENEFIT PDN

Read About it on Page 8

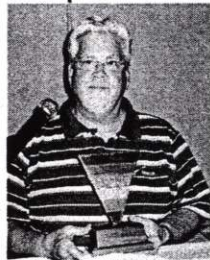


PA State Senator Kutztown Area School District Daylin Leach

Principal John Brown (holding award)

Hallie Schumacher (center) who accepted the award

Over 120 people attended the PA Diversity Network Awards Celebration at the Brew Works. The event honored those who have supported the GLBT community through advocacy, fundraising, and commitment to activism. Read more about this event in What's That About on page 2 and see a huge photo album

at WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley****Rich Spangler from
Reading Pride
Celebration****Brian Marks**

with PDN Boardmember Adrian Shanker

**Mike Fegley from
The Brew Works**with PDN Boardmember
Amy Smart**Lauren DeLeonardis
Amy Mirandoli
from
American Hairlines****Jerry Schmidt**with PDN Boardmember
Adrian Shanker**BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.**

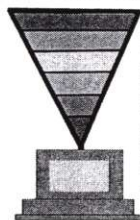
What's That About?



Readers, write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



HERE'S MORE ABOUT THE PDN AWARDS CELEBRATION AND SENATOR'S LEACH'S PRO RIGHTS EFFORTS



Special guest and honoree of the evening was PA State Senator Daylin Leach who has introduced a Marriage Equality Bill in Harrisburg and who recently brilliantly debated anti-gay State Sen John Eichelberger. Sen. Leach presented excellent arguments against a constitutional amendment prohibiting marriage equality and in favor of equal rights. Sen. Eichelberger insisted that gay people should be content because "PA allows gay people to exist". PDN also helped Sen. Leach celebrate his birthday with a very large cake.

PA Diversity Network thanks these generous sponsors of the PDN Awards Celebration:

Express Business Service, Allentown Women's Center, Partnership for a Tobacco Free Northeast PA, Mr. Joe's Chimney Sweep, Boudica Publishing, Charles Versaggi, William Sanders & Jason Sizemore, Dr. Gwen Greenberg, Amy Smart - Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor, Allentown City Council Democratic Nominee Ray O'Connell, Allentown City Councilman Mike D'Amore, Allentown City Council Democratic Nominee Mike Schlossberg, Yvonne Frey-Oppeneimer

Many Thanks to these Basket Raffle and Silent Auction Donors: Woodbury-Schmidt Soaps, Cynthia Rodriguez, Dawn McDermott, Mr. Joe's Chimney Sweep, Raphael Canizares, Marc Freligh-Princess House, Earl Snyder, The Organic Mattress Store, Jeff Faller, Allentown Art Museum, Rainbow Players, Civic Theatre, Panera Bread, Whitman's Cheese, Colonial House, Cold Nose Lodge, Tom Florio, Jai Yoga, Rainbow Mountain Resort, Susan Maurer, Esq., Liz Bradbury & Patricia Sullivan, Kerry Merrit - Handyman, Dorney Park, 24/7 Fitness. Read more about these supportive businesses in Resources on PDN's web site: www.padiversity.org.

Many thanks to Jazz Singer Roberta Meek who entertained during the reception

Award winners were also honored with letters of congratulations and certificates from: US Senator Arlen Specter, State Sen. Pat Browne, State Rep. Jennifer Mann, Allentown City Councilman Peter Schweyer. Also with a proclamation by Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski and greeting brought by Chair of the State Human Relations Commission Stephen Glassman from Gov. Edward Rendell. Read more about the award winners and see a photo album of the event at www.padiversity.org.

A surprise of the evening was a specially created award by artist Rafael Canizares presented by PFLAG president Don Kohn to PDN Exec. Dir. Liz Bradbury and President Patricia Sullivan, for which they were very grateful.

Dear WTA: Does AAA offer our families' memberships? Signed, Driver Dear D, Locally, our AAA offices have consistently offered same-sex families full family memberships. Meanwhile a VP for AAA South, said that his club has decided to limit the associate discount to spouses and dependents, but leaves it to the individual to determine their relationship. I.e., if a gay couple presents as married, they will be treated as a married couple, but if they use the terms boyfriend, girlfriend or partner they will likely be turned down.

Dear WTA, How GLBT Friendly is PA compared to other states? Traveler Dear Traveler Jeff Lax and Justin Phillips of Columbia University place Pennsylvania well above average in its acceptance to both same-sex marriage and many other gay rights issues. Using polling, statistical analysis and ranking several factors Phillips and Lax rank PA. seventeenth out of fifty states. Such findings seem to contradict Equality Forum's Malcom Lazin's comparisons to Mississippi and Alabama who rank 49th and last respectively on the list with support in the low twenty percentiles.

2

"A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING"

by Phil Healing

MISHMASH OF THE GAYS IN THE VILLAGE



Being gay here just doesn't seem to have the complicated weight it has in the US.

Because civil partnership gives legal validation to same sex couples, the wind seems to have been taken out of the sails of HMS Homophobia. It's almost like people are not allowed to object anymore.

Kindall was invited to do a voice workshop at a local grammar school. There was no discomfort about 'the gay thing'; one teacher asked why we were here and took the answer, after being a 30 second pretzel, in his stride. The school's music teacher, a single woman in her mid thirties, is the only female bass drum player in any marching band in the UK armed forces. She gave a Mona Lisa smile every time Kindall talked about me; and refers to her someone-at-homewithout ever using a gender specific word. You do the math.

I met a young gay couple at a huge yard sale and they had a little whine and moan about the NHS, - the British National Health Service, which of course is a government funded medical service, covering everyone. Everyone. One of the guys told me how bad it was and I listened for a little but I had to stop him quite quickly. After having paid over \$300 per month for medication in the US, the fourteen pounds (twenty bucks) it now costs me is an incredible relief. It's also very obvious how much greed there is among the drug dealers in the US! Kindall gets his for FREE. The British public do love to moan, but they sure as hell wouldn't want to live without the NHS. People are shocked when they find out what we had to pay.

The nearby town of Sheffield (while it has over half a million people, it's still a town - only cities have cathedrals) has its gay pride day on Saturday 20th, June. Unfortunately for us, we'll have to miss it as we're going to see my questionably straight nephew in a very gay show (Little Shop Of Horrors). He's majoring in theatre in preparation for university. More math.

So, we'll find a few other gay city (or town) events to go to. One of the beauties of living in England is its size - we can jump in the car and do all the gay town events. In the meantime, we have our scouting caps on, and we're digging for all the fabulousness we can find!

"A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING" ALTERNATES MONTHLY WITH "SCOTTY IN THE CITY"

Dear WTA: How can we make the fight for equal rights more racially inclusive? Signed, Wants Outreach

Dear WTO: In Washington, D.C., the diverse composition of the marriage-equality movement means that marriage-equality activists don't have to "reach out" to the black community, because they're already part of it. That doesn't mean marriage-equality activists don't face serious obstacles in garnering support among African Americans, but it makes racial divisions harder to exploit. The lesson is clear -- when the marriage-equality movement is integrated, outreach becomes less of an issue.

GLORA

GLORA-The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown
 GLORA @ dejazzd.com -
<http://glora.1colony.com> GLORA is a social group that produces a regular newsletter for members.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA
 Hotline: 610-882-0558.

LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears social group meets at the Stonewall, 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moosehead. Bears and bear admirers, are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: iramfine@aol.com or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group :<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears> See a Bears definition at PDN's web site.

GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling meets on the second Friday of the month. Jerry Makos, the new GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Jerry at jerry_makos@hotmail.com.

Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

SILENT WITNESSES TO ATTEND LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE IN THE PARK

The rainbow umbrellas will be out in full force at Lehigh Valley Pride in the Park this year, on August 16. The folks holding these umbrellas are fully-trained Silent Witnesses, there to welcome you to the afternoon events as well as to provide a non-confrontational buffer between festival goers and anti-gay protesters. The Silent Witnesses are a visible presence to ensure safety, to escort attendees to the event area, and to intervene with methods taught to them to help festival goers avoid physical altercations and arrests. The Silent Witnesses ask that anyone attending Pride in the Park ignore the protesters both physically and verbally, and have a fantastic, pride-filled afternoon.

For more information on the local chapter of Silent Witnesses, please contact Cathy at silent.witness@mcclv.org

HOT NEWS**HAVEN YOUTH GROUP**

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at www.uucvpa.org/haven.

HAVEN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

HAVEN is the LV's only lgbt social and support group for teens ages 14 to 20. Adult volunteers are needed to facilitate our weekly meetings on Wednesday evenings in Bethlehem. Facilitators should enjoy working with teens, and should have an ability to deal with lgbt youth in an appropriate and mature way, as demonstrated by years of life, job, or educational experience. Commitment is one Wednesday night per month. Criminal/child abuse background checks required. Training provided by HAVEN. Pls contact Pete Pellegrino, peterp10@ptd.net, 6109671654.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The summer schedule is now in effect.

Tennis: Sundays at 3:00pm at the Muhlenberg College courts, 22nd & Turner Sts, Allentown. Volleyball: Thursdays at 6:30pm at Catasauqua Playgroud, 458 American St., Catasauqua. Bowling: the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. Racquetball: every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: info@gloss.org.

READING PRIDE CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JULY 19TH 12:00 - 6:00 PM

CENTRE PARK

(700 BLOCK OF CENTRE AVE)
 READING, PA.

Admission is \$2.00. Headliner this year will be Maxine Nightingale. Other entertainers include Tom Goss, Jo Braithwaite, Chris Shirk as well as drag entertainment. Off-site parking available at the Reading Station Outlet (6th & Spring Street) Reading, with continuous trolley service to and from the event in the park. More details - www.readingpridecelebration.org or call (610) 375-8209. Pages on MySpace, Facebook and Twitter.

PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA (HARRISBURG PRIDE FESTIVAL)

SATURDAY, JULY 25, NOON TO 7PM

Pride Fest Untiy Parade begins at 10am headed by Stonewall Veterans South Riverfront Park, Harrisburg, PA Admission \$7 per person, Children under 12 - no charge. See a huge and comprehensive schedule of the events at : www.harrisburgpride.org

PRIDE IN THE PARK 2009

"100% PURE PRIDE" CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

SUNDAY, AUG 16 12NOON - 6PM

CEDAR BEACH PARK ALLENTOWN

Admission \$3.00, Over 100 vendors, artisans and community organizations
 The Pride Pub - Pride Art Gallery - Kid Space Activity Area
 Entertainment Schedule
 12noon - Philadelphia Freedom Band / Opening Ceremonies
 1pm - Josh Zuckerman
 2pm - Project Valentine Dance Ensemble
 3pm - Doggie Drag Show
 4pm - Christine Martucci (full band show)

GENTLEMEN OF BERKS & BEYOND UPCOMING EVENTS

Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond -- GOBAB takes their summer break. Write to gobabevents@yahoo.com with any ideas or trips you think the group might be interested in? Check out other information at: <http://www.myspace.com/gobab>

AN EVENING WITH

Kendall & Chris Shirk local artist
Saturday September 12, 7:00 PM
Stonewall-Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown, PA

Tickets are \$10 each., 3 for \$25, \$15 day of show if available Ticket purchase info; 610.451.5737 or gobabevents@yahoo.com

Show Presented by: Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond www.gobab.org
www.kendallshead.com

HARRISBURG ART

First Friday Art Exhibit on July 3rd at the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center's Stage on Herr Gallery on the Corner of Herr & Susquehanna Streets right off of 3rd St. starting at 6PM lasting until 11PM. This Art Exhibition at HMAAC is featuring 6 very special canvases commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion of 1969 which were created by John Bowermaster. The proceeds of all 6 pieces will be going directly to the PRIDE Festival of Central PA. Please come out to this very unique and wonderful Exhibition as we celebrate "Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights!!!"

READING PRIDE EVENT

Friday July 17, 7:00 PM Schmidt Training and Technology Center at 2nd & Penn Sts. in Reading. A free will offering screening of the Marriage Equality Documentary "FREEDOM TO MARRY" with light refreshments and dialogue to follow. The PA Diversity Network Photo Project will be featured at this event.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., New Location see web site. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

PFLAG meeting dates for 2009:
Allentown: 7/7, 8/4, 9/1, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1 Reading: (no summer meetings), 9/15, 10/20, 11/17 (no December meeting) Monroe info: Meetings held 1st Wednesdays, monthly at Hughes Library in Stroudsburg 7pm to 9pm in the boardroom. Dates: 7/1, 8/5, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2.

ACT
DIRECT
DESIGN
MANAGE
LIVE YOUR DREAM



Beginning in the Fall 2009 Penn State Berks will offer a B.A. Degree in Theatre.

For more information visit us on the web at www.bk.psu.edu/theatre or call 610.396.6419 for Prof. House, Coordinator.



READING PRIDE CELEBRATION JULY 19TH

see page 3

GLBT SUPPORT GROUP BERKS COUNTY

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com VGP Drop-Off spot.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

The SPECTRUM Meetings offer positive role models, peer support, education and recreation for LGBTQ youth ages 14-18. Meetings Wednesday evenings, 5:30-7:30 on the 2nd floor of Planned Parenthood 48 South 4th St., Reading. Questions? call 610-685-0888 or visit <http://www.myspace.com/LGBTQPP>. To become a adult volunteer, contact Amber Brown (SPECTRUM facilitator/Senior Community Health Educator) at 610-376-0137 or abrown@PlanItPa.org.

NEW GLBT CHURCH IN READING

New Church for Gay men and Lesbians in Reading. All Souls Ecumenical Church, in the Reading area. Welcoming and fully inclusive of all God's creation. The church offers the sacrament of marriage to same-sex couples. You can find out more information <http://www.allsoulsecumenical.org> by calling 610-621-1738



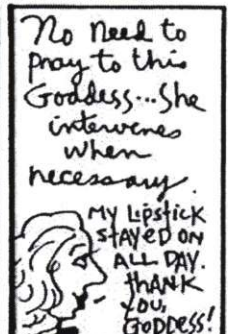
SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this small opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons, check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com

Special Goddesses



BECAUSE I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU HATE AIR TRAVEL AND CELL PHONES...



4-30

SOOZ VIEWS⁵

By Sue Sneeringer

FOUR SEASONS

In this current wave of gray, rain-soaked June mornings, afternoons and nights, it gives one the urge to move elsewhere. Where it doesn't rain so much. Where you reach for the shirt on a clothes tree and it feels wet on your skin. Where you don't need to go the arena to watch the ladies mud wrestle because you and your girlfriend can do it in the backyard. Which probably means moving to the desert. The desert. Sunny. Dry. Dry. Sunny. Yeah. Sounds tempting after, what, four sunny days in three weeks?

But I've lived in the desert and while it is just about the only thing I miss about Los Angeles, I'm a four seasons gal and so I guess I'll stay put. Because at some point the weather here will change. Can't exactly say that about L.A. It actually snowed once when I was in the Valley, mid-January. And even though it was subtle, I could always sense a change in the seasons there. But I'm a drama queen and nobody's better at drama than Mother Nature. Look around you right now. The flora and fauna are so lush you can't imagine the branches were ever bare. In L.A. you got palm trees, the occasional oak and mimosa.

The bougainvillea is nice, too, but it's NOTHING compared to the variety found in Penn's Woods. In six weeks, when August arrives, we'll be looking for some rain to get us through the dog days. And, after that, we'll cling to those last days of Indian summer until a crisp autumn air comes along and reminds us that it's time for something else. Give me the midnight clear of a winter's night, the occasional ice storm or blizzard (snow day... yay!). You can keep the humidity, frankly, but, just that. We'll get through these gray, rainy days and put them behind us faster than you can say "dew point" because part of what we love about it here is that She will surprise us. She may hold us hostage at times, too, but will we ever appreciate a sunny day more than we did this June?

Speaking of "autumn," as I did, sort of, Marilyn and I recently stumbled onto a terrific little film called AUTUMN HEARTS. I grabbed the box in the store because Susan Sarandon was pictured there. As was Gabriel Byrne, Max Von Sydow and Christopher Plummer. It's a small character-driven story about three "second class survivors" (as Sarandon's character Melanie refers to them) of Drancy, a transition camp for Jews and others on their way to the death camps in WWII. The story is one missed in most of the narrative on those times and is extremely well-told here. Very much worth viewing.

Don't forget Reading Pride Celebration in the Centre Park in Reading, PA on July 19th. Hope it's a sunny day and hope to see you there!

TOUCHSTONE THEATRE

Touchstone's converted firehouse studio is available for rent, when not in use. The space includes a 75-seat theatre, café, gallery space, and two workshop rooms; you can rent the entire facility, or a portion of it. For info, contact Lisa Jordan, Producing Director/Ensemble Member at 610-867-1689 or lisa@touchstone.org.

Some of the UPCOMING Events that PA Diversity will Host or Participate in or Donate to:

July 17 -- Reading Pride Movie

July 19 -- Reading Pride

August 8 -- Rainbow Players One Act Plays

August 16 - Pride in the Park (GLV Pride)

In Planning: BINGO in the Fall

PDN Community Auction in late summer

PREPRIDE PARTY IN ALLENTOWN

Dina Hall will be performing at the Pre-PRIDE party for the Girls: Sat. Aug. 15, Allentown Brew Works. More info to follow

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK YOUTH INITIATIVE

The PA Diversity Network Youth Initiative serves as a financial resource for special projects undertaken by Lehigh Valley and Berks County LGBT youth organizations.

Groups may request up to \$200 per program – but must make the request at least 3 weeks prior to the event.. K-12 public or private school groups, religiously affiliated, and independent groups are limited to two grants per year. College groups are limited to one grant per semester.

At the end of the program, the group is required to submit an After Action Report to the PA Diversity Network Youth Initiative.

Eligibility requirements:

Group must be based in Lehigh Valley or Berks County, PA. Group must be youth led and serve populations under age 25.

Projects that will be funded must fit the following criteria:

The project must be youth-led.

Grant request must be filled out by a youth leader.

Project must focus on advancing equality and justice to the LGBT Community. Project must serve an educational and/or advocacy purpose to those outside of the grantee.

How to apply:

Email a one-page description of the project your organization would like funded to: info@padiversity.org

Don't forget to include:

date of the project
project goals and objectives
primary contact for project
who will benefit from the project
what the money will be used for

Selection Committee: Adrian Shanker, Chair, Chris Alvaro, Alanna Berger, Liz Bradbury, Jeff Faller

FACT SUMMER GAMES, AIDS WALK, SNOW BALL

THE FACT SUMMER GAMES 2009, WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT! THE SUMMER GAMES WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2009 AT RAINBOW MOUNTAIN Resort in the Pocono's! Last year the event raised over \$15000.00. This year's event promises to be one of our best as the opportunity for more teams will be available as well as, a an expanded program and opportunities for fun. If you and your friends would like to form a team and compete or if you have a team and need a business to sponsor your group, contact FACT at 610-820-5519 and let us know how we can help you! Watch your mail for additional information regarding the Summer Games. Announcements will be sent out in late July 2009.

AIDS WALK 2009, WILL BE HELD IN BETHLEHEM ON OCTOBER 4, beginning in the Bethlehem Rose Garden on 8th Avenue between West Broad Street and Union Blvd.

Snowball 2009 will be held in December 2009.

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskapa>, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,

AIDSWALK-see **FACT**

BGMSSG - Berks County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksmsg@aol.com

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS --at the UUCLV. uucv_cuups@yahoo.com

Dignity - "GLBT-friendly ministry for Catholics and their friends" - meets at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00 pm. DignityLHV.blogspot.com Dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

Gay Matter Magazine --

GLEE at Air Products

GLORA - Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@[gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org)

GLOW - at PPL

GOBAB -Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond http://www.myspace.com/_gobab http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen_of_berks PO box 13592, Reading, PA 19612, 610-670-4483,

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com

Integrity - Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAL group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com www.uucvpa.org 610-866-7652

Kutztown Univ GLBT Radio show "Making Waves," w/ Jason Lincoln Tuesdays 4pm-6pm in town: 88.3 FM, 1670 AM. In Eastern Berks: Serv Elec Cable 24 or Hometown Utilicom: 41. Streaming on-line everywhere at <http://kur.kutztown.edu>

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 1-800-348-2813, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

LV Transmen - 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCCLV - Metropolitan Community Church, Lehigh Valley, 930 N 4th St., Allentown Services: 10:30am info @ mcclv.org, <http://www.mcclv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC - Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There - Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

JULY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	2 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	3 Harrisburg Art	4 WDIY GLOSS RAC BEARS
5 MCC GLOSS UUCLV WDIY	6 RAA SC	7 LVGMC LV PFLAG	8 SPECTRUM HAVEN FW-WDIY	9 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	10 Rainbow Fam Picnic	11 RE
12 MCC	13 RAA	14 LVGMC	15 FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM M PFLAG	16 RAA P PFLAG B PFLAG GLOSS RAC	17 Civic Theater	18 WDIY GLOSS RAC
19 Reading Pride Celebration	20 RAA SC	21 R PFLAG LVGMC	22 FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	23 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	24 Civic Theater	25 WDIY GLOSS RAC Central Pride
26 WDIY UUCLV	27 Muhlenberg Theatre RAA	28 LVGMC	29 W-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	30 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	31	

AUGUST 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BEARS GLOSS RAC GLOSS Tennis
2 MCC GLOSS UUCLV	3 RAA SC	4 LVGMC LV PFLAG	5 HAVEN FW-WDIY SPECTRUM	6 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	7 Muhlenberg Theatre	8 WDIY GLOSS RAC GLOSS Tennis
9 MCC GLOSS UUCLV	10 RAA	11 LVGMC MCC	12 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	13 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	14 GLOSS Bowling Rainbow Players	15 Pride Pa GLOSS RAC WDIY GLOSS Tennis
16 LV Pride in Park	17 RAA SC	18 LVGMC	19 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	20 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC B PFLAG P PFLAG	21	22 WDIY GLOSS Tennis GLOSS RAC
23 UUCLV GLOSS MCC	24 RAA	25 LVGMC	26 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	27 MCC RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	28	29 WDIY GLOSS RAC GLOSS Tennis
30	31					

SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 LVGMC LV PFLAG	2 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	3 GLOSS RAC RAA GLOSS V-Ball	4	5 GLOSS RAC WDIY GLOSS Tennis BEARS
6 MCC WDIY UUCLV	7 INTEGRITY RAA SC	8 LVGMC	9 FW-WDIY SPECTRUM HAVEN	10 GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	11 GLOSS Bowling	12 GLOSS RAC GOBAB GLOSS Tennis WDIY REN
13 FACT Summer Games	14 RAA	15 LVGMC R PFLAG	16 M PFLAG FW-WDIY SPECTRUM HAVEN	17 RAA B PFLAG GLOSS V-Ball P PFLAG GLOSS RAC	18	19 GLOSS Tennis WDIY GLOSS RAC
20 MCC Interweave WDIY UUCLV	21 RAA SC	22 LVGMC	23 FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	24 RAA MCC GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	25	26 GLOSS Tennis WDIY GLOSS RAC
27 MCC WDIY UUCLV	28 RAA	29 LVGMC	30			

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: info@prideglv.org, www.prideglv.org

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatsa.htm

Quakers-LV Friends Meeting-Rt 512 N of Rte 22 Bethlehem, Wbrshp 9:30am. 610-691-3411.

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniearluacas@msn.com

Ren - Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG 610-967-5219

Reading Pride - Festival in Reading

www.readingpridecelebration.org

SC Sanctuary Counseling G:BT Support

Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old

Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-

385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com

Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-685-0888

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449,

VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902

Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. ContactGALEA@Wachovia.com

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS

SANCTUARY COUNSELING-

1ST & 3RD MONDAY

LV GMC REHEARSALS - TUES

LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAY

READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES

LV HAVEN - WEDS

READING SPECTRUM - WEDS

MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS

JAN, MAR, JUN, SEPT, DEC ONLY

FRANK WHELEN WDIY - WEDS

POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS

BUCKS CTY PFLAG - 3RD THUR

MCCLV 20-30'S - LAST THURS

GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT

GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS

GLOSS BOWLING- 2ND FRI

MCCLV POTLUCK- LAST SUN

MCCLV WEIGHT LOSS- SUNS

LV BEARS - 1ST SAT

RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT

INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY

GLOSS TENNIS - SUNS

JUL 3 - HARRISBURG ART

JULY 8-26 -

MUHLBERG THEATRE

JUL 11 - RAINBOW FAMILIESPICNIC

JUL 11 - RAINBOW PLAYERS SALE

JUL 17-18 - CIVIC THEATRE

JUL 19 - READING PRIDE

JULY 25-CENTRAL PA PRIDE

AUG 14-15 RAINBOW PLAYERS

AUGUST 15 - PREPRIDE PARTY

AUG 16 - LV PRIDE

SEPT 12 - GOBAB

SEPT 13 - FACT SUMMER GAMES

OCT 4 - AIDS WALK

OCT 18 - MCCLV ANNIVERSARY

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NORTHEAST PA



RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

MORE ON THE SUMMER SCENE I

So far the summer is going great. And, since summer doesn't actually start for 5 more days that's saying something. Summer Movies Part II: Up! and The Hangover both score an A+. I think I forgot to mention last issue how HOT Chris Pine is in Star Trek. On TV: True Blood, TMZ, Golden Girls reruns, Merlin, and anticipating season 3 of Mad Men. Miss Chace Crawford was crowned most eligible bachelor by People Magazine. Hmmm...does his boyfriend Zac Efron know? In Music: Lady Gaga is all over...everything...all the time...everyday. And, she loves the gays. Adam Lambert is out & proud and he loves the gays. Ryan Seacrest is in denial and he loves the gays but not as much as he loves himself. Love the Kings of Leon, The Black Eyed Peas, and 80's reunion concerts.

Since Gaydar ended and GayMatter never took off I've been spending some of my free time reading. I recommend for your beach or pool-side reading pleasure- Pride and Prejudice and Zombies by Jane Austen & Seth Grahame-Smith. You really have to read it to believe how great it is. It remains true to Austen's original prose while incorporating a living sense of the undead. I know, I never thought I'd write that sentence either. Also great is the wonderful tribute to herself Tallulah: My Biography by Tallulah Bankhead. This one may be a little more difficult to find as I was not looking for it when I happened upon it at a yard sale. She writes in a very proper dramatic English prose. Great pics too, dah-ling!

If you're looking for something totally inappropriate for your coffee table you may want to pick up The Big Penis Book or The Big Breast Book edited by Dian Hanson. After a few cocktails it's surprising how appropriate these books become. People are curious, aghast, skeptical and awed. Why? Let's just say in the penis book someone can tie something into a knot. Balls in your court. Bill Maher's New Rules is a collection of his political musings. To get into Bill's mindset you must be high and love yourself more than Ryan Seacrest. I kid Bill. I haven't read but am looking forward to Laura Rider's Masterpiece by Jane Hamilton. Actually I'd like to read a gay version.

Gary is reading and highly recommends the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series by Rick Riordan. He's on book 2 of 5 and we just read they have been optioned for a series of films. Avoid the rush and read them now. Our friends Carol & Chad (as well as every 13 year old girl on the planet) are gaga over the Twilight series of books by Stephanie Meyer. Carol makes us call her Bella. And, that's before she starts drinking!

Speaking of Carol, I checked her List of Things to Remember When You're Reading on the Beach or By the Pool: 1. sunscreen 2. salt for the margaritas and 3. double check that your thong is on frontwards! We don't need another incident like the one in 2004!! Happy Summer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



PLANET Parenthood

donniecarlucas@msn.com
by Earl and Donnie Snyder
A DAY AT THE ZOO

8

We recently took our five-year old son, Lucas, to the Philadelphia Zoo. This is the first year he seemed to actually appreciate it. We had a chance to relive the wonder of seeing exotic animals for the first time through his eyes. He had a chance to feed, brush, and pet some goats and such, in the petting zoo.

Some of the goats looked inordinately wide. When he asked us why they looked that way, we told him confidently it was because they were mommy goats and they had babies inside their bellies. Later, within earshot of another parent asking the same question to the zookeeper, we learned it had nothing to do with being pregnant but it sounded like it was the layout of their digestive system. Oh boy! Why did we have to think we knew the answer to that question? Now Pandora's box was opened and the inevitable question came flying right out, and the next question, and the one after that.

Lucas wondered if he had a mommy, and if he was inside her belly when he was a baby. He asked where his mommy was now and if he could see her. We answered all of the questions with honest answers: "Yes", "yes", "don't know" and "maybe". Lucas accepted the answers without further explanation. Whew!! That was easy...this time.

Lucas already did have a concept of a mommy and also of two parent families with a mother and father as well as a mother/mothersituation, and of course his own. The differences never seemed to be apparent to him, but we seem to be moving into a whole new realm of understanding for him, and of course for other children his own age with whom he associates. One day we will be answering those same questions once again, but will be required to elaborate much further.

One day his classmates will be asking him questions about his parentage. One day his classmates' parents will be asking his classmates about his parentage and so on. We intend to be honest, supportive, and loving and hope that we can instill confidence enough for our son to be honest as well.

One of Lucas's dads is not worried about these future situations at all. The other is a neurotic mess and is now wishing he put Lucas in front of the TV to watch that DVD called "Hoodwinked" again instead of taking that lovely drive to the zoo to learn about all of those wonderful animals, one of which we had to go and think was pregnant.!!! Ugh!



Presents

CALL GIRL

Written by Carol Mullen

Musical Interlude



POSTCARDS FROM A DEAD DOG

Written by F.J. Hartlund

Friday, August 14th - 8pm

Saturday, August 15th - 2pm

(50% of Matinee Proceeds to Benefit

PA DIVERSITY NETWORKS YOUTH INITIATIVE)

Tickets: \$15 at door (\$8 for students with ID)

930 North 4th St/ 1st Floor/Allentown

for info 718-664-3713

All Comedies!!!

TROY PERRY TO BE SPECIAL GUEST AT MCC ANNIV

Mark your calendars today! MCCLV's 25th Anniversary Celebration is coming up in October and there have been some date changes. The 25th Anniversary Banquet will be held at the Barristers Club in Allentown on Friday, October 16 from 6-11 PM. The 25th Anniversary Worship Celebration will be at MCCLV on Sunday, October 18 at 10:30 AM. The founder of Metropolitan Community Churches, Rev. Elder Troy Perry, will be MCCLV's special guest for the Anniversary weekend. Invite your friends and family to celebrate all the good things God has done, is doing, and will do through MCCLV!



UPPER DELAWARE GLBT CENTER EVENT

The Upper Delaware GLBT Center (UDGLBT) hosted a unique art show entitled "Expressions of Gender" with a wine and cheese reception to celebrate its 'coming out' party May 23 at the Up Front Exhibition Space in Port Jervis, NY. Nearly 200 people attended the event that included over 50 works of art contributed by 10 artists. For information or to learn more about the Center, go to www.udglbtcenter.blogspot.com or email UDGLBT@gmail.com.

At Left: UDGLBT Center Exec Director Patty Tomaszewski unveils the newly-designed logo at the 'coming out' event May 23. The Center will provide a host of services to welcome, support and empower the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community in the region.

EPISCOPAL FORUM

The Episcopal Church governing body, The General Convention, meets once every three years and this is a Convention year as it meets July 7-18 in Anaheim California. Many issues affecting LGBT persons will be discussed, debated and voted on. The Rev. T. Scott Allen is an elected Deputy from the Diocese of Bethlehem and an openly gay clergyman. He will hold a brief introduction to the LGBT issues coming before the Episcopal General Convention with a short DVD presentation from Integrity (the national LGBT organization for Episcopalians).

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

THE NEW RIGHT-WING VIOLENCE MOVEMENT AND WHY QUEERS SHOULD BE CONCERNED

On April 7, 2009, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano released a report suggesting that right-wing violent extremism would be on the rise. Almost immediately she was condemned by the GOP and asked to apologize, which she did. And it is too bad, because unfortunately, she was correct in her predictions.

This month has seen the murders of Dr. George Tiller, which effectively shut down the Women's Health Care Services clinic in Wichita, KS, and Stephen T. Johns, security guard at the US Holocaust Museum in DC. Secretary Napolitano was correct, and yes, Queers need to be cautious about an upsurge of violent crimes against our community. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence programs reports that 2008 had the highest number of anti-LGBT violent crimes since 1999, with 29 reported hate-motivated murders, an increase of 28% in one year.

With the Election of President Barack Obama, it seems that conservatives are getting nervous about protecting their values and are willing to resort to violence to achieve their goals. Certainly, abortion providers and Jewish institutions are feeling a need for enhanced security following the two recent shootings. While the fear of violence should in no way confine us to being less visible, Queer organizations should take appropriate security measures into consideration when planning events. Especially if President Obama moves on any LGBT-positive legislation such as ENDA, a repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, a repeal of DOMA, or the passage of the Uniting American Families Act. Allentown Women's Center Executive Director, Jen Boulanger stated, "Callous, hate-filled rhetoric contributed to the recent deaths."

It embraces sociopaths and encourages them to commit violent acts." The Queer movement is not without protesters filled with hate-filled rhetoric. As a movement, we need to ensure that our communities are protected from all violence - from hate crimes against individuals, to violent acts at our community events.

We don't need to wait until something bad happens in order to prepare, the time is now. Right-wing terrorism is on the rise, and if history tells us anything, it will continue to rise throughout the Obama administration, as was the case under President Clinton. Fear will not solve our problems. We need to be visible and stay visible. But we need common sense. This means not inciting protesters at Pride festivals and perhaps requesting additional security at community-wide events.

MESSAGE FROM THE ALLENTOWN HEALTH DEPT

It is with both regret and concern that I write to inform you that effective January 1, 2010 the Allentown Health Bureau (AHB) will no longer be funded to provide HIV prevention education in the community. Last week AHB was notified by the PA Department of Health that AHB can continue to receive funding for disease surveillance and testing but prevention education would be performed by agencies funded through the local HIV/AIDS Coalition (AIDSNET). AHB will continue to perform HIV testing and partner notification - we are also hopeful that we still be permitted to conduct prevention education in the Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol Treatment facilities, pending funding approval.

Many AHB staff persons have been trained in conducting Demonstrated Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBIs) - programs that are proven to work in educating persons about HIV risk. Those interventions will end 12/31/09. It is our hope that AIDSNET will dramatically increase the number of DEBI programs they currently offer to Allentown residents in order to maintain the level of services currently offered to many high-risk individuals.

RAINBOW PLAYERS SIDEWALK SALE & MCCLV BAKE SALE EVENT

Saturday, July 11 at 10:00am to 3:00pm "Antiques, Vintage Items, Collectibles, and regular sidewalk sale stuff" Flea Market RAINBOW PLAYERS THEATER CO. at Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley 930 N. 4th Street Allentown, PA

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor - Liz Braddley

Publisher, Editor - Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Braddley, Patricia Sullivan, Donnie

Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby,

Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker,

Phil Healing, A'JA Lyons and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation or gender identity of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Metropolitan Community Church LV
930 N. Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule
Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (UUCV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem
Haven GLBT Youth Group at UUCV
10 Libraries in Berks County, Allentown Library
Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading
Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),
Reading Community Theatre -
11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading
Allen HS GSA - SPECTRUM
GLOSS, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center
Reading Area Community College Library

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Diamond Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
The Woods Campground
Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St. Reading
Sanctuary Counseling -- 515 Old Swede Road, Douglassville

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To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email:

info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP.

Some restrictions apply.



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16

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Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$20 for an individual membership and \$25 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 300 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2009 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

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CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

"PARADE" AT CIVIC THEATER

Civic Theatre of Allentown: a special two show-only benefit concert performance of Jason Robert Brown's Tony Award-winning musical Parade on July 17 and 18, with both shows at 8pm.

A true and tragic story behind the 1913 trial of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory manager wrongly accused of raping and murdering a 13-year-old employee. The trial, sensationalized by the media, aroused anti-Semitic tensions throughout the state of Georgia. When Frank's sentence was commuted due to possible problems with the trial, he was transferred to a prison in Milledgeville, Georgia, where a lynching party kidnapped him from the prison. The Anti-Defamation League was formed partly in response to Leo Frank's trial and lynching.

PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA HAS SENT YOU A MESSAGE ON CENTRAL VOICE

Harrisburg City Council Passes Festival Resolution
Resolution 31-2009 - A Resolution recognizing June 2009, as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month, and encouraging all people of the City of Harrisburg to work to advance the cause of equality and towards achieving a safe community that appreciates diversity in all its forms for generations to come.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



LIZ OUT LOUD © WE'RE LEGALLY MARRIED NOW

By Liz Bradbury

Trish and I got legally married in CT. We chose June 15th to do it because it happens to be my birthday. We figured after 21 years together, (our first date was in 1988), with a VT civil union (in 2000), an MCCLV Freedom to Marry church ceremony (in 2004), and 6 subsequent Freedom to Marry Day Courthouse Action applications for legal marriage licenses that were denied at the Lehigh County court house (yearly from 2004 through 2009) - we figured we needed to have a good way to remember our latest anniversary.

Also, because Trish gets retirement benefits from NYS and NY recognizes legal same-sex marriages from other states, we did it because the benefits for married couples are a bit higher than domestic partners. And there were other reasons too, including that CT has no referendum possibility to over turn it.

We wanted to just speed up to Darien, Connecticut, do it and come home (read Trish's column on how.). My wonderful sister lives in the next town, so she was there too. We figured we could get married, have lunch, and still get home before dark.

So there we were in Darien, filling out the marriage application again (for the 7th time) and suddenly we both realized that they were not going to turn us down! It hit us that we were really going to be legally married. We'd be finished with our 9 year trek to legal recognition. Because even though it's not recognized in PA, it will be someday and we don't have to get married again. See, just like an opposite couple who gets married in one state and doesn't have to get married in every other state they ever live in, neither do we. We just have to wait (and fight for) every state and the US Federal government to recognize it. So far 7 US states and the District of Columbia recognize it - and 27 countries world-wide. It really is just a matter of time, now.

When we left the Darien Courthouse, my sister said happily, "Now I have a sister-in-law!" We laughed, but it really struck us how true it was. Later I said to Trish that her nieces and nephews have a new aunt whether they like it or not. It's not something they can "choose to recognize," it's legal marriage and everyone understands that - not like a civil union that a heck of a lot of people don't get. I really do feel different. Here's just a little example... You know those little boxes on forms that say married or single and don't have a space for civil union or life partner? I'll never hesitate to say married again, not in any situation.

It's interesting that several straight people I've told this to really don't get it. One compared it to living with her boyfriend before they finally got married, but it's not the same -- no government office had turned them down for 9 years.

Seven months after Trish and I had our first date, I asked her to marry me. She didn't want to do it until it was legal. Now, 21+ years later, I've been able to marry the love of my life and I'm remarkably happy about it.

MARRIAGE LEGISLATION IN PA

By the way - PA State Senator Daylin Leach has recently introduced SB 935 - a Marriage Equality bill in PA. Sen. Leach chose to do this on his own and it's a major step, because even though it isn't going to pass through our legislation any time soon, nothing will ever happen if we don't start seriously talking about it.

At the same time - PA State Senator John Eichelberger has proposed another Constitutional Amendment banning same-sex marriage in PA. But Sen. Leach debated Sen. Eichelberger and Leach was excellent. He knew the issues and facts and spoke on them well. In 15 years of activism I've never heard a State legislator argue for our rights so well - in fact, I don't think any legislator has debated for us in the past. Eichelberger made it clear that he didn't have any real reason to deny us rights other than he doesn't like us. He also said, "(PA) allows gay people to exist," as though that was a beneficent thing.

To find out more about these issues check Keystone Progress on line and/or follow my Facebook page.

TRISH'S COLUMN ©

By Patricia Sullivan

HOW TO GET MARRIED IN CONNECTICUT

On June 15th Liz and I got legally married in Darien, CT. Getting a civil marriage in CT is easy. The license is \$30 and certified marriage license copies are \$10 each. Town Offices require payment in cash. The license is good for 65 days, but in Darien you can complete the whole process from application to certified copy in one day. Ours was completed in a record 1/2 hour. Other CT Cities require two days. The clerks in Darien were efficient, courteous, and nice to us. There are 22 Justices of the Peace in Darien whose charges start at around \$50. Any practicing ordained or licensed minister may also perform the ceremony, and they can be from out of state. To get married you do not have to live in CT, but you must be at least 18 years old, not be married to or in a civil union with somebody else, have a photo ID (driver's license or passport), your social security number, mother's maiden name, your parent's birthplaces, date and location of your wedding, and contact information for your wedding officiate. You cannot be related to the person you are going to marry. The Darien Town City Clerk web site is : <http://www.darienct.gov/content/104/114/220/default.aspx>.

Remember that getting married is serious business. It's a legal contract you must honor. If you want to break up - you'll have to get a legal divorce by establishing residency in a legal same-sex marriage state, probably for at least 6 months. If you happen to be in the US Military you will be dishonorably discharged if you marry a person of the same sex, because it is breaking the Don't Ask Don't Tell rule.

Although, Pennsylvania does not recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states, if you marry in CT, your marriage will be recognized in the 6 states that have same-sex marriage and in NY and DC where legal marriages from other states and countries are recognized. 27 countries in the world recognize same-sex marriage and the number continues to grow. By the way Connecticut has no referendum or "People's veto," so once you have a legal marriage in CT, they aren't going to be overturning it by some kind of Constitutional Amendment. And remember this - once you are legally married in any state - when it does pass in PA and when the federal DOMA law is overturned - you don't have to do it again. You'll be married in each place as they pass it.



THIS JUST IN - CENSUS WILL COUNT US

The U.S. Census Bureau will count married same-sex couples in the 2010 census, reversing an earlier decision made under the Bush administration.

PASSPORTS CAN CHANGE

Thanks to Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders and plaintiffs Keith and Albert Toney, the State Department is changing its passport policy. They will now allow same-sex spouses who have changed their last name upon marriage to update their passports accordingly. This change is a direct result of GLAD's challenge to section 3 of DOMA.

POP QUIZ 12

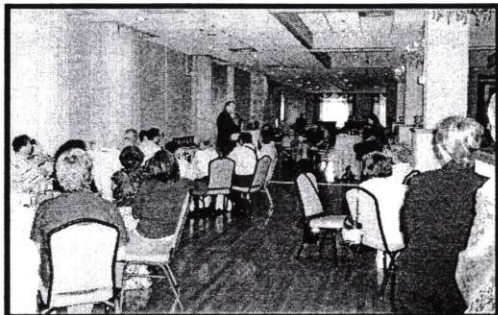
Match the level of same-sex partner recognition to the State

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. New Hampshire | A. Legal Same-sex Marriages |
| 2. Vermont | B. Civil Union Only |
| 3. Iowa | C. Recognizes Same-sex Marriages from other countries and states |
| 4. Virginia | D. No recognition of same-sex relationships |
| 5. New Jersey | E. Does not allow same-sex partners to have wills or powers of attorney |
| 6. Pennsylvania | |
| 7. Massachusetts | |
| 8. Idaho | |
| 9. New York | |
| 10. District of Columbia | |

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network
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PA-GALA
Rainbow Families
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Allentown Human Relations Commission
Safe-Space of Lehigh University
PFLAG Lehigh Valley
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
GLORA
Pride of the GLV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Agere
Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest
9th Street Shelter Allentown
LV Community Action Committee
GLEE at Air Products
FACT
AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
GROSS
LEPOCO
GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center
Theatre Outlet
Integrity - Bethlehem
The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Oyc Theater
19th Street Theater
The Latin Alliance
The Enigma Players
New Covenant Family Ministries
Properties of Merit
Allentown City Democratic Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance
LV Turning Point
Muhlenberg Theater Association
LV Crime Victims Council
Touchstone Theater
Congregation Am Raddical
LV Progressive Students Alliance
The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown
United Friends School Quakertown
LV Transsexual Coalition
Lehigh Valley Transmen
Old Allentown Preservation Association
The Center for Animal Health and Welfare
WDGY
All Souls Episcopal Church in Reading

PHOTO OF THE MONTH PA STATE SENATOR DAYLIN LEACH SPEAKS ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY AT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S AWARDS CELEBRATION SEE 150 PHOTOS OF THE AWARDS CELEBRATION EVENT AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



PA State Senator Daylin Leach received a special award at PDN's Award Celebration at the Brew Works in June. Sen. Leach recently introduced a bill (SB 935) which would provide for marriage equality for same-sex couples in Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK
THANKS THE UNITED WAY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN WHO CHOSE PDN FOR THEIR DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS!!!

PDN STARTS NEW YOUTH INITIATIVE PROGRAM TO FUND GLBT YOUTH GROUP PRO-EQUALITY EFFORTS

READ HOW YOUR GROUP CAN GET FUNDING ON PAGE 5.

QUOTE #3

"Yet easy to mock as 'Gathering Storm' may be, it nonetheless bookmarks a historic turning point in the demise of America's anti-gay movement. What gives the ad its symbolic significance is not just that it's idiotic but that its release was the only loud protest anywhere in America to the news that same-sex marriage had been legalized in Iowa and Vermont. If it advances any message, it's mainly that homophobic activism is ever more depopulated and isolated as well as brain-dead." -- Frank Rich

QUOTE #4

"You are going to think about every single penny you spend from this day forward. And the only thing I ask of you is to spend it and invest it in those companies that invest in you." -- Suze Orman - on only investing in pro-GLBT companies

QUOTE #5

"Closeted politicians at any level are a menace to society. They would sell their souls to the devil, if there was one, to keep their secrets from being known." -- by greatwhitebear from Pam Spaulding's blog

QUOTE #1

"...(N)ot a day goes by that I don't think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the 'wrong kind of person' for me to marry. I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry." -- Mildred Loving of the interracial marriage Supreme Court case of Loving v. Virginia of 1967

QUOTE #2

After courting our votes and campaign contributions by promising to correct the inequality we have suffered our entire lives in America, you have now filed a brief in support of DOMA.

In so doing, you have thrown us off the back of the bus and under its wheels. We are stunned, duped, and outraged that you would, so inexplicably, suddenly demonstrate such contempt of our Love, after your courting and loving our votes, financial support, and respect." -- Tim Hare on Pres. Obama's defense of DOMA.

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW REVIEW BY A'JA LYONS I'LL SCREAM LATER BY MARLEE MATLIN, SIMONSPOTLIGHTENTERTAINMENT, 2009

Oscar and Golden Globe winner Marlee Matlin has released an autobiography that chronicles her upbringing in a Jewish household in Illinois to becoming a noted actress and face of the Deaf community. Her story is told with a lot of passion and integrity, but the book lacked a certain flow and Matlin could have detailed the emotions she felt in her relationships with the many celebrities she dated and the lack of communication she had with her mother.

Overall, I enjoyed learning about Marlee's life and how she got to where she is, the choices she's made, and how she overcame her addiction. Most of the problems I had with the book were bad editing. Tsk, tsk.